

Dowry deaths

1241. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of dowry deaths in the country is on the rise;
- (b) if so, the number of deaths reported during the last three calendar years, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Curbing Bodo aspiration for separate State

1242. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to curb Bodo aspirations for a separate State; and
- (b) the measures taken to ensure that Bodo Autonomous Council gets its administrative and financial need?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of settlement popularly known as the Bodo Accord was signed on February 20, 1993 with the objective to provide maximum autonomy to the Bodos within the framework of the Constitution for their social, economic, educational and cultural advancement.

As per the provisions of the Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC) Act 1993, the BAC has been delegated wide ranging administrative powers over a number of subjects. In addition to the normal Plan & Non-Plan assistance, the BAC areas get funds from Government of India under Special Central Assistance and Non-Lapsable Pool of Central Resources to accelerate economic development in the BAC areas.

Exodus of Sikhs from J&K

1243. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sikhs from Kashmir valley have started their exodus because of the failure of the law enforcing agencies to protect them from the militants; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposed to take so that this exodus of Sikhs from Kashmir valley is stopped and a sense of security amongst them is restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No Sir, however, Pan-Islamic outfits operating in J&K keep trying to create a communal divide by resorting to in-group killing of members of minority communities and thereby creating an atmosphere of fear with the aim to ethnic cleansing and forcing their exodus. To prevent it, the State Government have taken various preventive/confidence building measures which inter-alia include:

- Strengthening the Village Defence Committee system by providing them Training and improved weaponry and communication equipment;
- Strengthening the security grid around the minority inhabited villages;
- Increased frequency of patrolling by security forces of sensitive and vulnerable areas;
- Visits by State Government and security force officers to remote and minority villages.

After the incidents of Mehjoor Nagar, the State Government had further reviewed the security arrangements for minorities and remote and scattered populations. In addition there is a constant monitoring of the security situation by the respective Unified Headquarters level at Jammu & Srinagar as well as in Operations groups at various lower levels with a view to dynamic deployment and adoption of strategies by the security forces to meet the various challenges being thrown up by the terrorists. Government of India continues to provide support to the State Government and the security forces in their efforts.

Slow pace of generation of energy

† 1244. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pace of generation of energy from non-conventional sources in India is very slow;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even one-tenth of the potential energy is not being generated by the total alternative sources; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.